

Minutes  
Human Services Commission  
Thursday, October 9, 2003  
5:00 P.M.  
Kiva – City Hall  
3939 Drinkwater Boulevard  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

Present: Vice-Chair Bachmann, Commissioners Bilsens, Coudroglou, Reid and Resnick

Staff Present: Connie James, Dawn Cagan, Jan Cameron, Phil Hershkowitz, Valerie Kime Trujillo, Rita Koppinger, Sharon Light-Stephenson, Tim Miluk and Mary Kay Rieke

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-chair Bachmann called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 25, 2003 MEETING

Commissioner Resnick moved for approval of the September 25, 2003 meeting minutes; Commissioner Bilsens seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

PROCLAMATION ON READY TO LEARN

Vice-Chair Bachmann read the Proclamation on the Ready to Learn initiative, signed by Mayor Manross, which indicates that the month of October is designated Ready to Learn month.

HUMAN SERVICES CURRENT ISSUES DRAFT REPORT AND UPDATE

Connie James, Human Services Director, introduced the background on the Human Services Issues Report. She stated that the HS Issues Report would be sent to the City Council after the Commission's approval. Ms. James then began the presentation by discussing funding issues. She then introduced Valerie Kime Trujillo, Resource Development Specialist who began the presentation by discussing funding and basic needs. Ms. Trujillo then introduced Sharon Light-Stephenson, Human Services Coordinator, who presented the Family Self Sufficiency portion of the report. Ms. Light-Stephenson introduced Connie James, who presented the Domestic Violence portion of the report. Ms. James introduced, Mark Kay Rieke, Human Services Manager at Paiute Neighborhood Center, who presented the Mental Health portion of the report. Ms. Rieke introduced Hugh McGill, Human Services Coordinator, who presented the Youth and Family portion of the report. Mr. McGill introduced Jan Cameron, Human Services Manager at Via Linda Senior Center, who presented the Senior Issues portion of the report. Ms. Cameron then returned the presentation to Connie James.

UPDATE FOR STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION - 2004

Representative Meg Burton Cahill, District 17, State House of Representatives, discussed issues that will be a priority for consideration in the coming legislative session in Arizona.

Vice-Chair Bachmann commented on Representative Burton Cahill's discussion of mental health – that not spending money for treatment i.e., preventative services leads to spending more money in the future. Representative Burton Cahill said yes, that she believes there are three types of people: those that believe up front that using funds for Human Services,

preventative measures, etc., is the economically right thing to do; those that can be persuaded; and those that come from a small ideology who believe we don't need to create a Department of Tourism or Commerce – that isn't the role of Government. She insisted that it is the role of government officials to represent their constituents, but that those representatives cannot do their job if they don't hear from their constituents – it is imperative that citizens, commissioners, etc., voice their concerns to their legislators. Representative Burton Cahill ended by saying it is essential that all people are provided a quality of life – an important issue for Scottsdale, and that working towards improving the quality of life will have much more impact in drawing companies that will give our economy growth and depth.

#### THE CITY OF SCOTTSDALE LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENT – 2004

Steve Olson, Government Relations Director, presented an overview of current City of Scottsdale legislative issues that will be addressed in the coming legislative session in Arizona. Mr. Olson discussed that there was a billion dollar shortfall last year and that is the case this year – as the monies are allocated, there is no chance of adding to the funds, simply defending what they currently have.

Mr. Olson discussed Smart Starts, a program that is basically Ready to Learn and how the Governor staunchly supports the program. He also discussed Child Protective Services and how the emphasis, as was reported by Human Services staff, will now involve “what is in the best interest of the child” as opposed to “what is best for the family”. Mr. Olson discussed the transportation tax and stated that only 2% of monies collected is used for transportation, there is legislation that proposes that 1/3 of funds be allotted to enhance transit services.

Regarding unemployment, Mr. Olson discussed the bill that was introduced by Senator Allen to raise the amount and its subsequent defeat. However, he indicated that Governor Napalitano and her staff would be working on an effective bill to change our current unemployment allotment. Mr. Olson discussed how the Maricopa Association of Governments is working to get a funding agreement for the homeless and that agreement may fit in tax reform.

Mr. Olson stated that Governor Napalitano is also hoping to address the issue of drug costs for our communities. He indicated at the Federal level that Section 8 block grants may be turned over to states instead of cities, although they don't expect any changes in the CDBG grant.

Vice-Chair Bachmann asked if those legislators voting know what they are looking at, are they aware of the numbers? Mr. Olson indicated that when he speaks to legislators, their first thought is that the state has a deficit and items must be cut. In the legislature, to receive an increase you need a 2/3 majority vote in each body and more than 1/3 are voting not to increase taxes – so getting any bills to increase revenue looks bleak. Therefore, legislators look at what they have – 2/3 of state budget is entitlements, so there is a narrow band of funds that legislators can even address. Those that have the largest lobbies, those who complain the loudest are those that will be heard and receive the funding. It is easier to target and remove funding from Human Services than from a large Water Resources lobby.

Commissioner Resnick asked what the future of our children as the Child Protective Services is in such chaos. Mr. Olson stated that focus on the issue is needed, and there will be a special session of just the Child Protective Services issue in the future, so there will be no way around discussing and deciding what must be done. Commissioner Resnick asked what they could do

to address the issue. Mr. Olson said that writing letters, called and telling your legislators what you want, what is important to you as a voter is essential in bringing these issues to the forefront and making progress. Mr. Olson added that the Commission holds a strong position and messages from them are always heard and encouraged, because you are the ones that know the facts, numbers and realities of human services situation.

#### STATEWIDE ISSUES FOR HUMAN SERVICES STAFF – 2004

Tim Schmaltz, Protecting Arizona's Family Coalition (PAFCO), presented an overview of human service issues that are being advocated for in the coming legislative session in Arizona.

Vice-chair Bachmann asked if people want to get involved with PAFCO, how would they go about it. Mr. Schmaltz stated that people can get on the website ([www.pafcoalition.org](http://www.pafcoalition.org)) and be put on the mailing list. Vice-Chair Bachmann asked how one would know if a particular issue you are concerned about comes before the legislature. Mr. Schmaltz said that one could get on the PAFCO mailing list for updates. He added that PAFCO advocates budgets, so if a person had a particular interest, such as mental health, they should also put themselves on the mental health agency's list as well, because the agency will have additional information. He said that the PAFCO website has a resources section that can take people to other sites where their particular issue is addressed in more depth.

Commissioner Bilsens asked if Mr. Schmaltz could speak about tax reform. Mr. Schmaltz said that the reform would eliminate tax exemptions, for example a company created and based in Arizona was given a \$220,000 tax exemption, but it was purchased by a company that has no basis in Arizona, yet still receives the exemption. He added that if tax exemptions are closed, a billion dollars could be raised. Such a closure is not done because they do not have the power – it is organized money or organized people that make changes in government.

#### STAFF AND COMMISSION UPDATES

Ms. James stated that if Commissioners had any changes in the Human Services Issues Report, please contact her so that the changes could be made before the report goes for final approval at the next meeting. Ms. James also discussed the East Valley Needs Assessment Summit being held on November 14, and that if any Commissioners are interested in attending to please contact her so that she can RSVP for them.

Ms James introduced Valerie Kime Trujillo who updated the Commission on the following: **Civic Center Senior Center** - Volunteers are wanted for our intergenerational Reading Program (Yavapai Elementary) and/or Pen Pal Program (Hohokam Elementary). Call Kristy at 312-2376 on how you can get involved. The Annual Senior Center Arts & Crafts Fair will be held on Saturday, November 22 from 9am to 3pm. The annual Thanksgiving Dinner will be held on the November 21. The Art Mollen Clinic will offer flu shots at both the Civic Center and Via Linda Senior Centers. Flu shots are \$20 and pneumonia shots are \$25 for those having no insurance or plans not accepted by the Art Mollen Clinic. For a list of accepted insurance plans, or to make an appointment, call (480) 312-7702 (**Civic Center Senior Center**) or (480) 312-5810 (**Via Linda Senior Center**.)

**Vista del Camino** - On October 7, an IRS representative provided training on the Earned Income Tax Credit program at 8:30 am at Vista del Camino. The Earned Income Tax Credit program can help families claim federal tax benefits up to \$4,140 a year for working families with less than \$34,178 in income. Enrollment in the Vista del Camino Holiday Adopt a Family program began September 15. Those interested in enrolling in the program or becoming a donor or volunteer may call 480-312-2323 for more information. The Vista del Camino Clothing Bank is open the second Saturday of every month. Members of Chaparral High School Student Council and members of the Scottsdale branch of the National Charity League join Vista staff members in this endeavor. The Clothing Bank is also open Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

**Community Assistance Office** - On October 8, the Applicant Orientation for CDBG, HOME, Scottsdale Cares, General Fund Contracts and Endowment Funds was held at the Civic Center Library Auditorium. Over 30 non-profit agencies attended the orientation. The City of Scottsdale hosted the Annual FSS East Valley Alliance (EVA) Graduation and Award Ceremony on October 8 at the Civic Center Library Auditorium. The celebration recognized the graduates and participants from the cities of Scottsdale, Tempe, Chandler, and Mesa. The Scottsdale Housing Agency will be accepting Applications for the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program. Applications will be accepted for just one day, November 12 from 8am to 2pm at the Civic Center Library Auditorium. It is anticipated that approximately 350 individuals will apply.

**Paiute Neighborhood Center** - The After-School program began on August 11, 2003 with a full enrollment of 65 and a waiting list of 42. The program provides arts, crafts, recreation, tutoring and an open computer lab. In addition to the activities mentioned, there is a Drop-In Computer Lab option that serves 45 to 65 children on a daily basis. The Scottsdale Center for the Arts hosted Artrageous for the after-school participants on September 17, 2003. The children were crafty at creating postcards, short poetry, hats and general art projects that will be donated to an annual arts education fundraiser called Artrageous on October 18, 2003. The funds raised from this program benefit all of the art education programs throughout the city. The Grand Opening for the renovations of building 7 and 9 is scheduled for Thursday morning, October 16, 2003. There will be tours for those who would like to see the center.

**Via Linda Senior Center** - Claire Miller, Preserve Manager for the City of Scottsdale, is holding preserve steward training course for 35 volunteers. This 8-week program is held Thursday evenings from 7-9pm at Via Linda Senior Center. The Grief and Loss support group meets every Wednesday morning at 10:00 am and is open to everyone who has experienced a loss of a loved one. No registration required. For more information, please contact Dawn Cagan at 480-312-8465. Via Linda is offering a new Divorce Support Group. Open to anyone who has experienced a separation or divorce. Registration is required please call 480 312-8465. Costume Party and Contest will be held on Friday, October 31 at 3:30pm– with special guests from the Boys and Girls Club. Baseball fans can gather at the Via Linda Senior Center to catch all the World Series Games – *no schedule yet at Major League Baseball has not announced specific details*. Via Linda Senior Center staff and Scottsdale School District Service Learning students will be assisting with a Senior Olympic Track and Field clinic at Central High School on Saturday October 18. Please feel free to attend or participate. Details on participating can be obtained by calling Salty at 602-261-8765.

**Youth and Family Services** - Staff continues to provide information on the city's Ready to Learn Initiative. All city staff are invited to attend training on October 30 and November 25. If any citizens are interested in receiving more information on RTL, just call Youth and Family Services at 480-312-7922. Youth Services staff is participating with the Scottsdale Police Department on a year-long strategic plan to determine services and resources available to meet the needs of Scottsdale students who formerly received drug and alcohol awareness education through DARE. This is an attempt to determine a better range of services for youth in order to assist them in making appropriate life choices, particularly around the

issues of drug and alcohol use. Workshops for youth continue to be offered throughout the fall months. Workshops are educationally based and include the following: Money Management, Study Skills, Choices, Trust, Leadership, and Responsibility. If anyone is interested in enrolling, please call 312-7922.

#### OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Vice-Chair Bachmann made an open call to the public for comments/questions/announcements or other business. There were no replies.

#### ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to be brought before the commission, Vice-chair Bachmann asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Bilsens moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Coudroglou seconded. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Beth Bossert, Recording Secretary.

Meets established criteria.

Connie James  
Director, Human Services